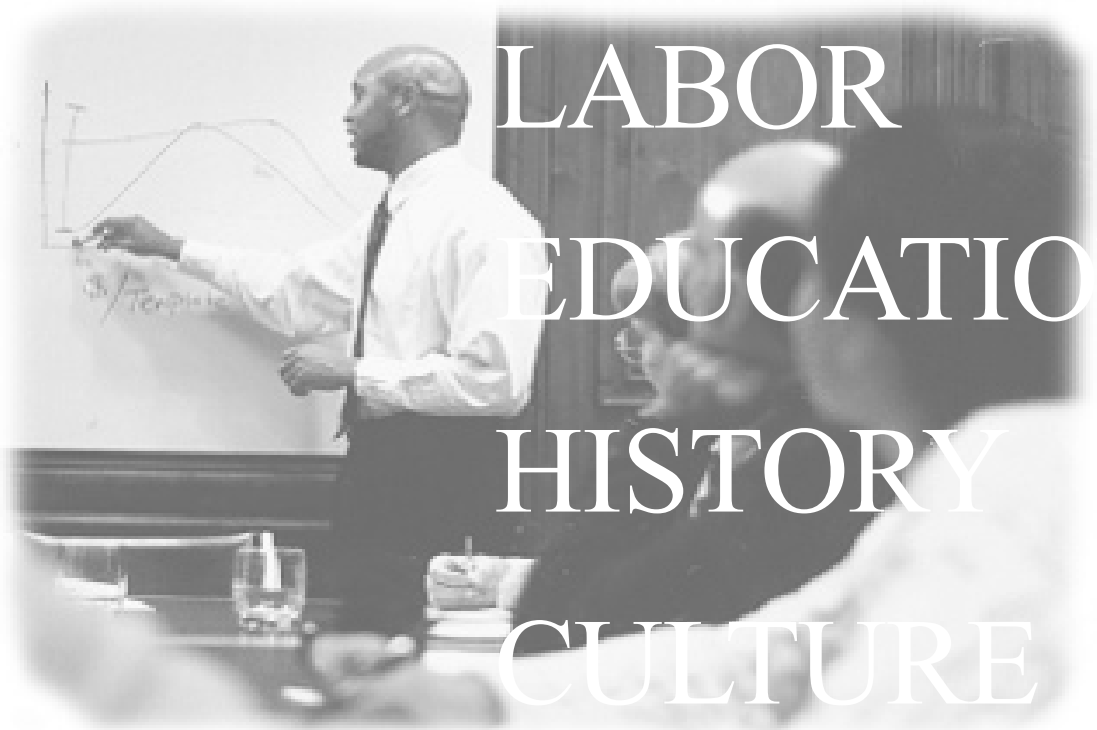


# UNION



# PARISH

*“...the health of a community is a shared responsibility of many entities, organizations and interests in the community, including health services delivery organizations, public health agencies, other public and private entities and the people of a community.”*

– Institute of Medicine. 1996. *Healthy Communities: New Partnerships for the Future of Public Health*. National Academy Press. p. 12

UNION  
PARISH

# Union Parish

**Union Parish Tourist Commission**  
P.O. Box 308  
Bernice, LA 71222  
318-285-9333

**Regional Office of Public Health**  
Billie J. Strickland,  
Regional Administrator  
Northeast Regional Office  
2913 Betin St.  
Monroe, LA 71201

**Mailing Address:**  
P.O. Box 6118  
Monroe, LA 71211-6118  
318-362-5211  
318-362-3163 fax

## History<sup>1</sup>

Union Parish was established on March 13, 1839. Its name is derived from the sentiment of the time – “liberty and union, now and forever, one and inseparable” (from a speech by Daniel Webster). Also, as Andrew Jackson said, “the Union must and shall be preserved.”

## Culture and Recreation<sup>3</sup>

Union Parish, bordered by Arkansas to the north and the scenic Ouachita River to the east, is truly a nature lover’s paradise. With 15,250-acre Lake D’Arbonne, a new state park, Upper Ouachita/D’Arbonne National Wildlife Refuges, and Union Wildlife Management Area, there are plenty of opportunities for fishing, boating, sailing, swimming and waterskiing. Attractions in Farmerville include Black History Parade, D’Arbonne Arts Festival, Watermelon Festival, and the Christmas Ceremony. In Bernice, see the 1899 Depot Museum and the 1939 wooden caboose in Depot Park. Also in Bernice are Sweet Onion, the Garland House, the J.W. Heard House, the Bernice Civic Clubhouse and the Alabama Methodist Church, all properties listed on the *National Register of Historic Places*. The Town of Marion features the mayhaw Festival and National Register Hopkins House.



**Parish Seat<sup>1</sup>** ..... Farmerville<sup>1</sup>  
**Major Cities** (over 5,000 population)<sup>2</sup>  
None

## Parish Population<sup>2</sup>

1990 .....	20,690
1997 (estimate) .....	21,727
Breakdown of 1996 population (estimates) <sup>6</sup>	
White .....	70%
African American .....	30%
Other .....	0%
Male .....	48%
Female .....	52%
Population age 0-4 .....	7%
Populations age 65 & over .....	16%

## Geography and Statistics<sup>2</sup>

Average elevation .....	113 ft.
Land area in square miles .....	877.7
Water area in square miles <sup>4</sup> .....	27.7



## Climate<sup>2</sup>

Average temperatures

Annual ..... 65°

January ..... 39°

July ..... 85°

Annual average rainfall ..... 52 in.

## Labor Force (1995)<sup>1</sup>

Civilian ..... 11,180

Employed ..... 10,560

Unemployed ..... 620

Unemployment ..... 5.5%

## Agriculture<sup>1</sup>

Dairy farming, beef cattle, watermelon and vegetable farming; forestry, garment and brush factories.

## Colleges/Universities<sup>2</sup>

(within one hour commute)

Grambling State University, Grambling

Louisiana Tech University, Ruston

Northeast Louisiana University, Monroe

Public Libraries<sup>5</sup> ..... 1

## Educational Attainment (1990)<sup>7</sup>

Less than 5th grade	4.9%
High school graduate or higher	64.3%
Some college or higher	26.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher	11.0%

## Major Employers (Products) and Number of Employees<sup>2</sup>

### Private Employers

ConAgra Frozen Foods (Poultry Processing) 1,800

Willamette Industries (Particle Board) 140

Chateau D'Arbonne Center (Elderly Care) 100

### Public Employers

Union Parish School Board (Education) 502

Union General Hospital (Medical) 80

Tri-Ward General Hospital (Medical) 40

## Poverty and Income

Persons in poverty (1995)<sup>7</sup> 20.0%

Children under age 18 in poverty<sup>7</sup> 29.7%

Per capita income (1996)<sup>8</sup> \$18,010

## References

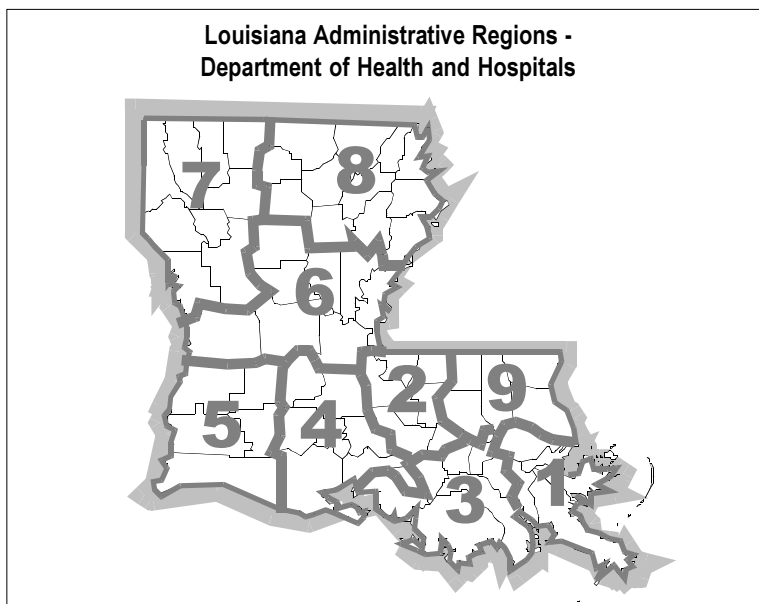
- <sup>1</sup> Louisiana Almanac. 1997. Louisiana Almanac, Pelican Press. Gretna, LA
- <sup>2</sup> Louisiana Department of Economic Development. 1999. Louisiana Overview. keyword: overview <http://ldeed.state.la.us>
- <sup>3</sup> Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information <http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism.htm>
- <sup>4</sup> Police Jury Association of Louisiana. <http://www.lpgov.org/>
- <sup>5</sup> State Library of Louisiana. keyword: directories <http://smt.state.lib.la.us/>
- <sup>6</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. Population Estimates. 1998. keywords: parish name <http://www.census.gov/datamap/www/22.html>



**UNION  
PARISH**

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. keywords: people, poverty, small area income and poverty estimates <http://www.census.gov>

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration. 1999. keywords: economics and statistical administration <http://www.doc.gov>.



**Region 1**

Jefferson  
Orleans  
Plaquemines  
St. Bernard

**Region 2**

Ascension  
East Baton Rouge  
East Feliciana  
Iberville  
Pointe Coupee  
West Baton Rouge  
West Feliciana

**Region 3**

Assumption  
Lafourche  
St. Charles  
St. James  
St. John  
St. Mary  
Terrebonne

**Region 4**

Acadia  
Evangeline  
Iberia  
Lafayette  
St. Landry  
St. Martin  
Vermilion

**Region 5**

Allen  
Beauregard  
Calcasieu  
Cameron  
Jefferson Davis

**Region 6**

Avoyelles  
Catahoula  
Concordia  
Grant  
LaSalle  
Rapides  
Vernon  
Winn

**Region 7**

Bienville  
Bossier  
Caddo  
Claiborne  
DeSoto  
Natchitoches  
Red River  
Sabine  
Webster

**Region 8**

Caldwell  
East Carroll  
Franklin  
Jackson  
Lincoln  
Madison  
Morehouse  
Ouachita  
Richland  
Tensas  
Union  
West Carroll

**Region 9**

Livingston  
St. Helena  
St. Tammany  
Tangipahoa  
Washington